

of the gloomiest of the season, but that the streets really seemed illuminated by the bright, beaming countenances that met you at every turn. So it was in Dayton, - dark, drizzling, and muddy, but no one mind that all were rejoicing. We felt indignant at the loss of Lloyd, also at not taking S. A. Johnson instead of Bushrod Johnson.

We are to have the prisoners, at least a portion of them, sent to Cincinnati Columbus, and I heard this evening of a hundred being expected here -

Some patriotic gentlemen have offered to have them taken care of in their own families - Rather a foolish proceeding, I think, as they would be far more comfortable in a hospital with nurses provided for them, than in private houses.

It was Mrs. B's fault that you did not receive your package - I don't know whether Mr. B. knew that there was one to be sent. His wife did, I am sure - I will see John. Darrin in the morning, and by and send it by him, if he has not already left -

You spoke about buying some curls the other day. Did you see any handsome braids that would suit my hair?

Pictures  
22

Dayton Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dear Augusta -

I have just received your last letter this evening, containing the long looked for pictures. We all, that is Mother Howard Bettie and I, (the rest not having seen them), think them very good. I don't see what fault you can find with yours, and I think "Dear little Wobbie" adds greatly to the picture. Nothing could be better than Tella & Frank; the latter married gentleman, has grown so fleshy that I hardly thought it could be the same poor little Frank that left home last September.

We like Uncle John's picture, but do not think it equal to yours, at least the card he gave us was rather indistinct about -



the hands. Mr. Cridland has made several attempts to take a good picture of Howard. but so far has failed. He expects to make some changes, in the light in his room, and then Howard will try again. Leoborn took Uncle John's.

Your letter and pictures have almost made me forget our good news.

Yesterday morning, Father went to Columbus about an hour after he had started a despatch from Mr. Torrance, arrived, saying that Father was <sup>re</sup> elected the day before and desiring him to come up immediately.

"We have our friends felt but little doubt as to his reelection, but me at home, and I think Father too - felt somewhat anxious on the subject. They are talking about cutting \$200 off of the salary, thereby making it 1,000. Retrenchment seems to be the order of the day, so we must not complain - and besides \$1,000 is better than none -

We have been in a great state of excitement ever since the fighting began at

Fort Donelson. We received news generally twice a day. Howard remained sometimes at <sup>the</sup> "Telegraph" Office until 12 o'clock at night - Sunday night after church he ran off to the Office leaving me to go home with Willie, (I think he forgot he had a sister there;) In a few minutes he returned with the news that the "Fort ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> taken," of course we were all excitement, and anxious to know what famous General he had captured. At 11 o'clock Howie returned to the office, and remained there until midnight. When he returned <sup>home</sup> he said it was only the upper redoubt that had been taken, and I saw by his countenance that much fear was felt for the result. But Monday noon all came right. Such surraths and confusion we have not heard in Taylor for many a day. Every person looked beaming. In Cincinnati, the Commercial says, the day was one



Picture Galleries before you come home -  
Give much love to Luther.  
Good night - dear Gus.

Many thanks from all for the picture  
Now early and early Goodnight  
Your sister  
Mary

Dear Augusta Mary says her eyes have  
given out. So I will just say how glad I am  
to see you all tonight, and I seem almost  
like seeing you. Little Frank is so pretty, I was  
astounded. He must be doing well and with care  
will outgrow the effects of disease. If you  
gain nothing else by the change you may be  
satisfied with that. I looked all last week for  
the most interesting papers, and by being too peering  
sleaz, let the week slip by without sending any, to  
day I have sent one which is full of interest.  
Tell me if you are not satisfied with my sendings.  
Your tenant paid up the other day in full, He  
was three months behind. The Law says nothing  
more yet. General W. C. Cask, was here and spent  
the evening with Kate while all the rest were at  
a concert. He was telegraphed by Gen. Buell to return  
immediately, whether they came to any decision, and  
what it was, if they did, we do not know. I know  
Mr. P. is devoted to him. And Louie is too. They see -  
lein him against Schenck, and Louie, told them  
they should not speak against him in her presence.  
It was reported, and even E. H. Daves believed that they  
were to be married the evening he came, but they were  
not. We have never mentioned the subject to the family  
and do not know how Kate feels about it.  
The Brig says Floyd was not at Fort Donelson, for some  
of his men say he is participating on their river.!!! Perhaps  
he will take him yet. Mary says she looks as if she was  
going to say something sure to Luther, I am sure, is she not?  
Love to all from Mother

2  
I wish when it is convenient - you  
would price them, and let me know  
what a good sized one would cost. You  
know I have a small one - I would  
like one large, <sup>I long</sup> enough to make a hand-  
some knot such as we wear now -  
So don't trouble yourself to go when it is  
inconvenient, but just find it when  
you have some errands of your own  
to take you out -

Howard has gone this evening to  
the concert given by the High School Scholars.  
This is the third evening, and is for the  
benefit of the wounded at Fort Donelson.  
The proceeds of the other two evenings  
are to be used for the purchase of Chem-  
ical Apparatus for the School.  
The Cantata is called Queen Esther.  
I believe Mr. Steele said he didn't see  
much difference between it and  
other Theatres. I don't - what he knows  
about other Theatres. I expect he has



read about them. Dr. Thomas  
and Mr. Speer were both there.

(I think Dr. Speer) Mr. S. was highly de-  
lighted. Ellen James was there, Esther  
and Lida Howard (Christ-brother of Lona).  
She looked very pretty and sang very  
well. Wore a buff moire antique  
skirt (Mrs. De Graff's) and black velvet  
bodice, white veil & crown, and  
Diamonds (also Mrs. De G.),  
Uncle J. was very proud of her - and  
had a right to be for she appeared  
well and sang sweetly -

Lis and family spent the day here  
yesterday - She and the children are  
pretty well; Elliott is a fine boy.  
Lis intended to write to you Sunday  
but was prevented by a company  
coming out. Joe Crane I believe,  
was there; he and the Brig. left  
last Monday night.

Filding and Lizzie reached home  
last week. Lizzie is tired and sick  
of living at Point Pleasant. I believe

she was absent a month - Nothing  
but Salt-Pork - hard bread & crackers  
sometimes a few Oysters - Great  
Dreppful times generally.

Mother sent yesterday's Com-  
to Luther -

Mart was here yesterday - She wrote  
to you Saturday - she wants one of your  
Photographs.

Uncle J. seemed much pleased  
at Robbie's recognition of his picture.

Well I believe I have told you all  
the news, so I will stop and let  
Mother finish the sheet -

Tell Sella, Franky and Robbie  
and tell them I think from the way  
their pictures look, that they must  
be pretty good children. Tell them to be  
careful about making faces this  
freezing weather as it is dangerous -

I envied Luther his visit to the  
Artist. It was a very interesting ac-  
count that he wrote. So try and go  
there, and don't fail to visit the